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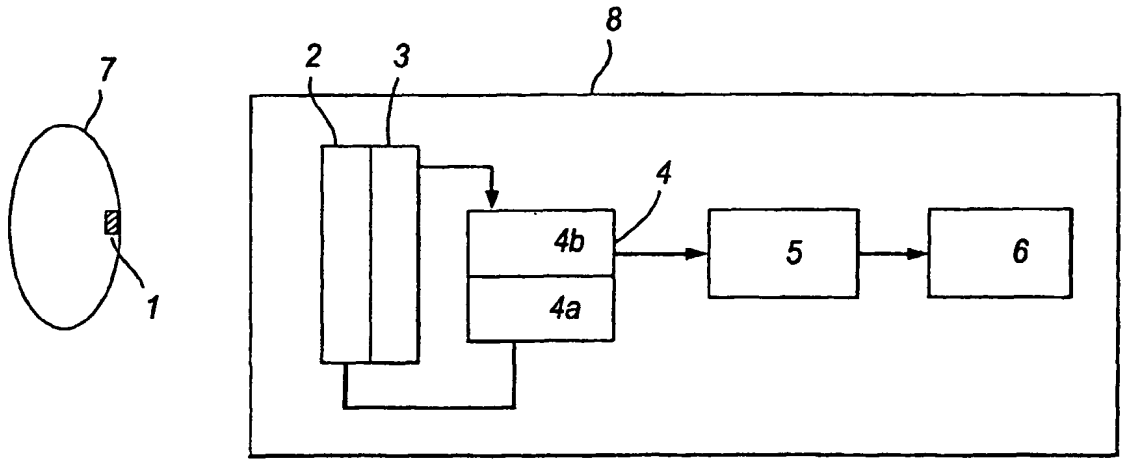

(57) Abstract: The present application relates to methods and apparatus for verifying the authenticity of, or ensuring the correct substitution of, replacement units which connect to a master device in order to facilitate the operation of that device. A verification means to determine the authenticity and/or the correct connection of the replacement unit is provided in the form of a remotely detectable tag, such as an optical or magnetic tag, which is provided in or on the replaceable unit. A detection system is then provided in the master unit which provides a means to excite the tag when the replaceable unit when brought into proximity with the master unit, and which also provides a means to detect the response of the tag to the excitation means.

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